

### REMARKS

The claims have been amended to reflect correct claim numbering. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced by this preliminary amendment.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to help expedite the prosecution of the present application.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment or to charge any fees or fee deficiencies under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 in connection with this communication to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR  
& ZAFMAN, L.L.P.



Gregg A. Peacock  
Registration No. 45,001

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12400 Wilshire Boulevard  
Seventh Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1030

Telephone: (512) 330-0844  
Facsimile: (512) 330-0476

**MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS**

[13] 16. (Amended Once) A network element comprising:

a first processor to execute a first and second network process, the first network process to generate a first set of data before restarting and a second set of data after restarting, the second network process to synchronize the first and second set of data upon determining a time period has not expired, the time period beginning when the first network process dies; and

a second processor coupled to the first processor, the second processor to process a set of traffic using the first set of data before the first network process restarts and the third set of data after the first network process restarts.

[14] 17. (Amended Once) The network element of claim [13] 16 wherein the first processor comprises a memory to store the first, second and third set of data.

[15] 18. (Amended Once) The network element of claim [13] 16 further comprising the first processor to allocate a first memory to the first network process and a second memory to the second network process.

[16] 19. (Amended Once) The network element of claim [13] 16 further comprising the first processor to allocate a first memory to the first network process, a second memory to the

second network process, and a third memory to store the first set of data, the second set of data, and the third set of data.

[17] 20. (Amended Once) A network element comprising:

a first memory to host a first network process, the first network process to generate a first set of data before restarting and a second set of data after restarting;

a second memory coupled to the first memory, the second memory to host a second network process, the second network process using the first and second set of data if a time period has not expired, the time period beginning when the first network process dies; and

a third memory coupled to the first and second memory, the third memory to store the first set of data before the first network processes restarts and to store a synchronized set of the first and second set of data after the first network process restarts.

[18] 21. (Amended Once) The network element of claim [17] 20 wherein the first memory, the second memory and the third memory are main memory.

[19] 22. (Amended Once) The network element of claim [17] 20 wherein the first memory, the second memory, and the third memory are mass storage.

[20] 23. (Amended Once) The network element of claim [17] 20 wherein the first memory, the second memory, and the third memory are a set of regions of a memory.

[21] 24. (Amended Once) A system comprising:

a first network element to execute a first network process the first network process to generate a first set of data before restarting and a second set of data after restarting; and

a second network element coupled to the first network element, the second network element to execute a second network process, to determine the first network process died, to start a counter upon determining the first network process has died, to store the first and second set of data, and to synchronize the first and second set of data upon determining the counter has not exceeded a time period.

[22] 25. (Amended Once) The system of claim [21] 24 wherein the second network element comprises:

a first memory to store the first set of data and the synchronized set of data; and  
a second memory to store the second set of data.

[23] 26. (Amended Once) The system of claim [21] 24 further comprising the second network element to clear the first and second set of data if a time period expires.

[24] 27. (Amended Once) The system of claim [21] 24 further comprising the second network element to mark the first set of data as stale when the first network process dies.

[25] 28. (Amended Once) A machine-readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed by a set of processors of one or more processors, cause said set of processors to perform operations comprising:

receiving a first set of data from a network process;

determining death of the network process;

clearing the first set of data if a time period expires; and

synchronizing the first set of data with a second set of data if the time period does not

expire, the second set of data received from the network process after the network process restarts.

[26] 29. (Amended Once) The machine-readable medium of claim [25] 28 further comprising indicating the first set of data as stale when the network process is determined to be dead.

[27] 30. (Amended Once) The machine-readable medium of claim [25] 28 wherein expiration of the time period is determined with a timer maintained after the network process is determined to be dead.

[28] 31. (Amended Once) The machine-readable medium of claim [25] 28 wherein the first set of data and the second set of data are synchronized after a done signal is received.

[29] 32. (Amended Once) The machine-readable medium of claim [25] 28 further comprising restoring a set of configurations to the network process after the network process restarts.

[30] 33. (Amended Once) The machine-readable medium of claim [25] 28 further comprising clearing the second set of data if the time period expires and a done signal is not received.

[31] 34. (Amended Once) A machine-readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed by a set of processors of one or more processors, cause said set of processors to perform operations comprising:

detecting death of a process;

restarting the network process;

restoring a set of configurations to the network process;

if a first set of data is generated before a time period expires, then synchronizing the first set of data with a second set of data, the second set of data having been generated before the death of the network process; and

if the time period expires, then clearing the second set of data.

[32] 35. (Amended Once) The machine-readable medium of claim [31] 34 further comprising indicating the second set of data as stale when the network process is detected as dead.

[33] 36. (Amended Once) The machine-readable medium of claim [31] 34 wherein expiration of the time period is determined with a timer incremented after the network process is detected to be dead.

[34] 37. (Amended Once) The machine-readable medium of claim [31] 34 wherein the first set of data and the second set of data are synchronized after a done signal is received.

[35] 38. (Amended Once) The machine-readable medium of claim [31] 34 further comprising clearing the second set of data if the time period expires and a done signal is not received.